

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A process for introducing defects into a metal oxide, said process comprising the steps of:

providing a metal oxide sample wherein said metal oxide sample has a specific energy;
applying a gas to a sufficient amount of a said metal oxide sample to increase the said
specific energy, wherein said gas is a mixture of O₂ and H₂O_(g);
heating said metal oxide sample; and
cooling said metal oxide sample.

Claim 2 (original): The process as in claim 1, further comprising the step of:

maintaining said heating step at a temperature of from about 300 to about 600 °C.

Claim 3 (original): The process as in claim 2, wherein said heating step is maintained from about 6 to about 72 hours.

Claim 4 (currently amended): The process as in claim 1, wherein said gas is applied to said metal oxide sample at a linear flow rate of at least about ~~50~~50 ccm.

Claim 5 (original): The process as in claim 1, wherein said heating step is from about 2 to about 20 °C/min up to about 460 °C.

Claim 6 (original): The process as in claim 5, further comprising the step of:
maintaining said temperature of about 460 °C for 24 hours.

Claim 7 (original): The process as in claim 1, wherein said cooling is from about 2 to about 20 °C/min until ambient air temperature is achieved.

Claim 8 (canceled)

Claim 9 (original): The process as in claim 1, wherein said metal oxide sample is V₂O₅.

Claim 10 (currently amended): The process as in claim 1, wherein said ~~sufficient amount~~
~~comprises~~ metal oxide sample comprising comprises a surface area of about 1- 10 square meters.

Claim 11 (currently amended) A process for preparing a metal oxide for a battery cathode with increased capacity, said process comprising:

applying a mixture of O₂ and H₂O gas to a sufficient amount of a V₂O₅ metal oxide
sample at a linear flow rate of about ~~50—350 cm~~50 – 350 ccm;
heating said metal oxide sample at a temperature of from about 300 to about 600 °C for a
time period of from about 6 to about 72 hours; and
cooling said metal oxide sample.

Claims 12-16 (canceled)